MARVEL
EWING
COELLO
D'ARMATA
RATED T+
VENOM WAR
1 OF FIVE

GRAND GARDEN ARENA, NEW YORK CITY.
FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY.
THAT'S RIGHT, THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S ALL GOING DOWN IN ONE NIGHT! THIS VERY NIGHT!
MORE UNLIMITED THAN THE UNLIMITED! MORE ULTIMATE THAN THE ULTIMATE! MORE IMMORTAL THAN THE IMMORTAL!
THRILLS, CHILLS, MAYBE EVEN KILLS--AS ONLY THIS PROMOTION CAN PROVIDE! THAAAAT'S RIGHT, BROTHER--
--WE! ARE GOING!
TO WAR!

I, SYMBIOTE SMITH--THE KLYNTARIAN NIGHTMARE--HAVE ISSUED AN OPEN CHALLENGE TO THE UNLIMITED CLASS WRESTLING FEDERATION!

YOU WANT WHAT I GOT, YOU TAKE IT FROM ME! LAST MAN OR ALIEN STANDING WALKS AWAY WITH THE UNLIMITED GOLDEN BELT!

THE LUMBERJACK AND KEN "CAVEMAN" CORRIGAN HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL! AND IT'S LAST CALL--UNLESS THEY GOT A FREE BAR IN THE MORGUE!

BOOOO!

BROTHERS AND SISTERS, I WANNA ASK Y'ALL--IS THERE NOBODY ELSE IN THIS WHOLE ARENA WITH THE RAW GUTS TO--

YEAH, LOUDMOUTH--ME!

OOOOOH!

I'M FEELIN' MEAN AND MUTATED, SMITH! 'CUS YOU LET THAT ALIEN TONGUE WAG TOO MUCH IN THIS RING--

--AND NOW THE GATOR IS GONNA GIVE YA--THE BIG CHOMP!

G CHOMP!

BIG CHOMP!

BIG CHOMP

IT HAD TO HAPPEN! GAVIN "GATOR" GRANT WANTS REVENGE FOR WHAT WENT DOWN AT THE ROMP IN THE SWAMP!

AND HE'S PICKED NIGHT OF FIGHTS 2024 TO DO IT--MAKING THIS A FOUR-WAY BRAWL FOR IT ALL! DOC SAWBONES, YOUR THOUGHTS?

SAWBONES ISN'T READY, CRUSHER--NOT FOR THE LEVEL OF EXTREME PHYSICAL DISCOURTESY WE ARE ABOUT TO BEAR SHAMEFUL WITNESS TO!

NOOO! LEMME OUTTA HERE!

AND REFEREE "NERVOUS" NED NOVIS IS UNABLE TO CONTINUE!

BY FEDERATION LAW, THIS IS NOW AN ANYTHING-GOES GORE-N'-GRUE DEATHMATCH! I DON'T MAKE THE RULES, FOLKS!

AND THERE'S THE BELL TO UNLEASH HELL...

IRISH WHIP INTO A DDT.

I KNOW, I KNOW--

WHAT'S THAT LIGHT...?

NOW EXITING THE TIMESTREAM...

...THE TIME-SPLIT EDDIE BROCK.
TYRO.
SUBSERVIENT EDDIE.
NO HUMAN BODY.
VRA-KOOOM
WILDE.
SARCASTIC EDDIE.
NO HUMAN BODY.
BEDLAM.
ULTRAVIOLENT EDDIE.
NO HUMAN BODY.
EDDIE.
LEADER EDDIE.
THE ORIGINAL
HUMAN BODY.
OH, HEY.
I RECOGNIZE THIS PLACE.
FROM ONE GARDEN TO ANOTHER...
...AND WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE, PAL?
THAT SHIRT LOOKS FAMILIAR.
UH, I'M... WELL...
I'M A SYMBIOTE.
ARE YOU NOW.
C'MERE.

AAARGH!
HOLY MOSES!
THE WAR FOR THE BELT JUST TOOK ONE HECK OF A LEFT TURN, FOLKS!
THAT CRUNCHING SOUND YOU HEARD WAS SYMBIOTE SMITH'S ARM! NO HUMAN OR ALIEN LIMB IS MEANT TO BEND THAT WAY!
AND THAT SOUND IS THE EVACUATION SIREN! ONCE AGAIN, THE CUE FOR OUR LIVE AUDIENCE TO FLEE WHILE THE FLEEING IS GOOD!
THAT'S U.C.W.F., FOLKS-- WHERE THE ACTION COULD GET REAL AT ANY MOMENT!
WHAM!N
WE GONNA LET THESE FREAKS GO INTO BUSINESS FOR THEMSELVES ON OUR SPOT...?
HELL NO!
LUMBER-JACK SAYS-- JACK 'EM UP!

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR DISTRACTIONS--
DISTRACTIONS?
I FOUGHT CAPTAIN AMERICA ONCE!
KRAK
ANYBODY CAN FIGHT CAP ONCE, DUMMY.
IT'S FIGHTING HIM TWICE THAT'S THE TRICK.
HRRRHH. LAST MAN STANDING.
DOES THAT MEAN YOU WIN THE BELT?
UH... YEAH, I...I GUESS...
BUT I WAS JUST LEAVIN-- NNGGKK!
TOO LATE!
MY BELT NOW!
AARRGHH

OKAY! THESE PEOPLE ARE...NOT KIDDING AROUND!
CAN WE SPEED THE EVACUATION UP ANY? THANK YOU, SECURITY TEAM!
CRUSHER, I THINK THEIR LEADER IS ABOUT TO SPEAK--
THIS THING ON? GOOD.
'CAUSE YOU'RE RIGHT, CRUSHER.
THIS AIN'T KAYFABE.
SO CLEAR OUT THE RUBBERNECKERS-- BUT KEEP THOSE DRONE CAMERAS ROLLING. I'VE GOT A MESSAGE FOR THE FOLKS AT HOME.
THIS RING IS OURS NOW. IT BELONGS TO THE KINGS IN BLACK--AND YOU DON'T GET IT BACK UNTIL WE GET WHAT WE WANT.
TWO THINGS. WE WANT MY SON... AND WE WANT MY OTHER.
BECAUSE THIS WAR ISN'T FOR SOME BELT. IT'S FOR SOMETHING MUCH MORE IMPORTANT.
WELCOME TO THE VENOM WAR.

VENOM WAR

PART 1
ARE YOU READY?

Years ago, **EDDIE BROCK** was a reporter whose career was ruined after **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** revealed his biggest story to be false. Distraught, Brock contemplated ending his own life. But he found a kindred spirit–an extraterrestrial **SYMBIOTE** that Spider-Man had rejected. Sensing Brock shared its hatred of the wall-crawler, the creature bonded to him and the two became **VENOM**. Following years of conflict, Venom and Spider-Man became allies, and the symbiote found other hosts.

More recently, Eddie gained power over all symbiotes as the **KING IN BLACK**, the ruler of their race, while his son, **DYLAN**, and the symbiote formed their own union, becoming the New Venom! But now the Venom symbiote is missing, believing he has made both Eddie's and Dylan's lives worse. Meanwhile, both Eddie and Dylan have glimpsed unique and terrifying visions of the other's future if bonded to the Venom symbiote... dark fates they each will stop at nothing to prevent...even if that means starting a **WAR!**

TEAM EDDIE

EDDIE BROCK

BEOLAM

TYRO

WILDE

TEAM DYLAN

DYLAN BROCK

TOXIN/ BREN WATERS

RED GOBLIN/ NORMIE OSBORN

FLEXO

SLEEPER

UNDECLARED

SPIDER-MAN/ PETER PARKER

THE VENOM SYMBIOTE

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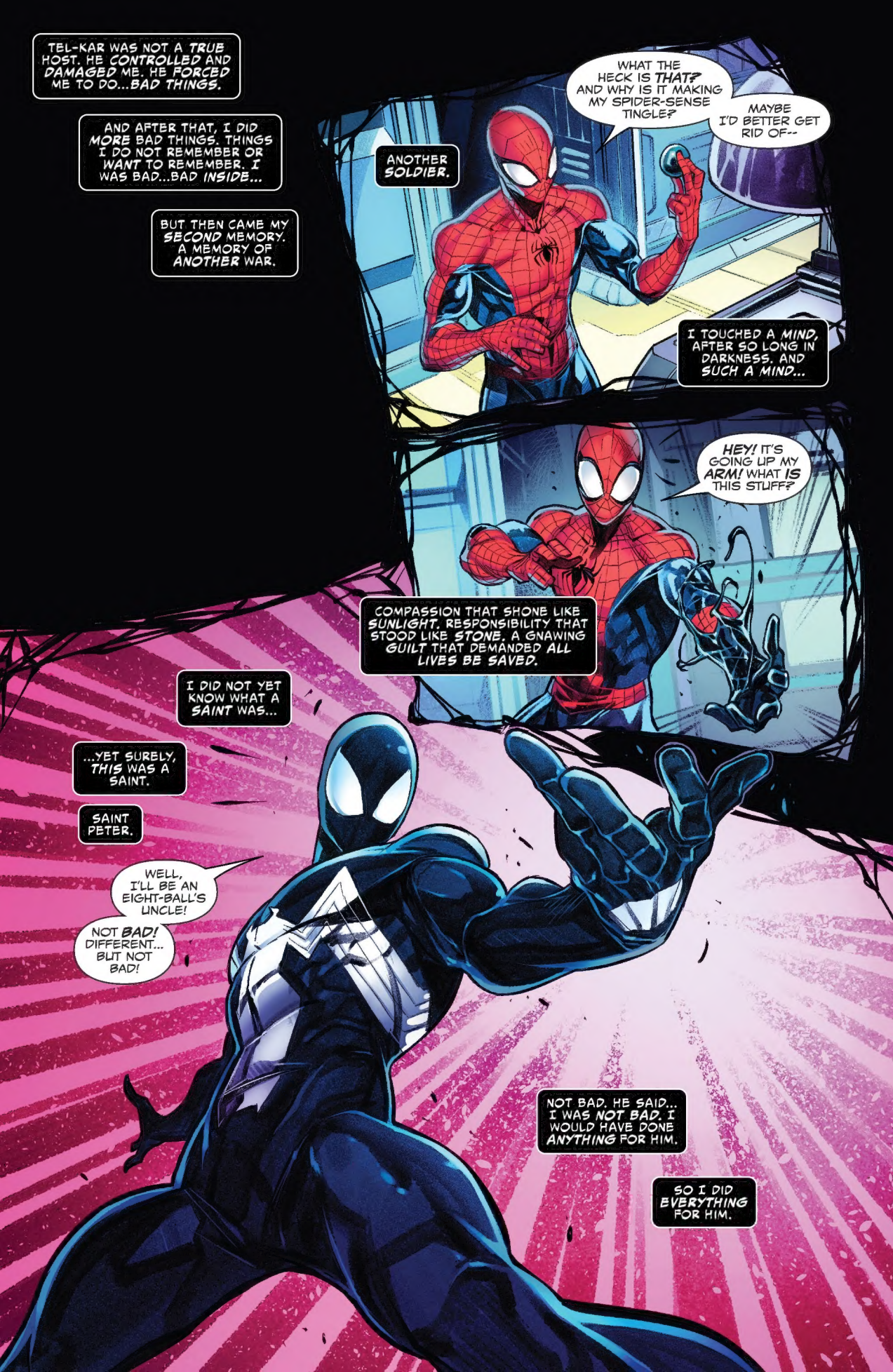
MY EARLIEST MEMORY...
I HAD GONE AGAINST MY KING. BROKE FROM MY PEOPLE. I WAS A WEAK LINK IN THE CHAIN OF AN ENDLESS CAGE. I WAS UNIQUE...
THIS ONE APPEARS TO BE SOME SORT OF OUTCAST.
...BUT THE CONCEPT OF SELF WAS NEW AND HARD TO GRASP. I WAS VULNERABLE TO MANIPULATION.
THE MEMORIES ARE ONLY FLASHES...
...BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME, I HAD A HOST. A SENTIENT HOST.
HIS NAME WAS TEL-KAR...AND TOGETHER, WE WERE SOLDIERS IN A WAR.
THAT WAS THE FIRST THING I EVER REALLY KNEW.
THE WAR.

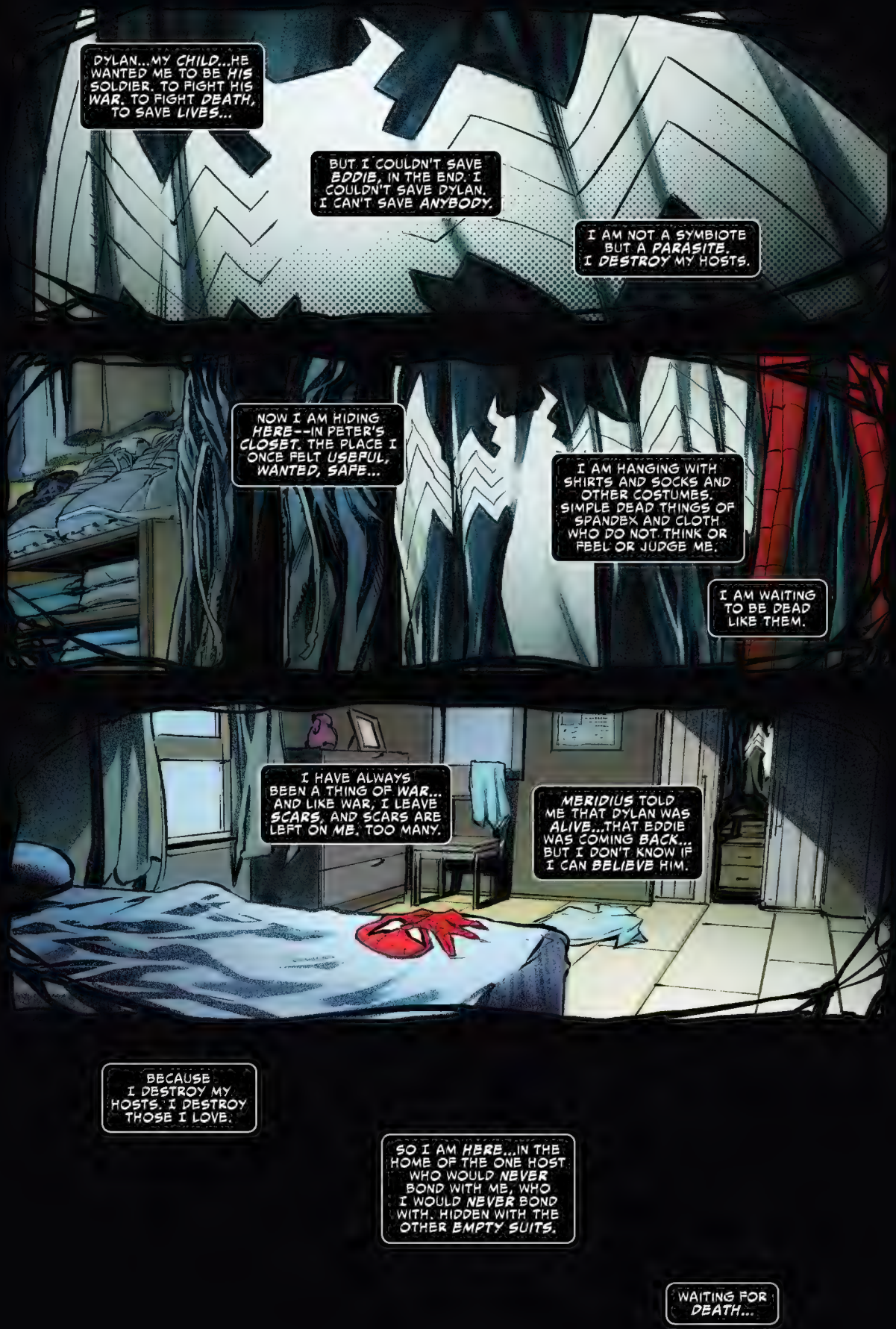

TEL-KAR WAS NOT A TRUE HOST. HE CONTROLLED AND DAMAGED ME. HE FORCED ME TO DO...BAD THINGS.
AND AFTER THAT, I DID MORE BAD THINGS. THINGS I DO NOT REMEMBER OR WANT TO REMEMBER. I WAS BAD...BAD INSIDE...
BUT THEN CAME MY SECOND MEMORY. A MEMORY OF ANOTHER WAR.
ANOTHER SOLDIER.
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT? AND WHY IS IT MAKING MY SPIDER-SENSE TINGLE?
MAYBE I'D BETTER GET RID OF--
I TOUCHED A MIND, AFTER SO LONG IN DARKNESS. AND SUCH A MIND...
HEY! IT'S GOING UP MY ARM! WHAT IS THIS STUFF?
COMPASSION THAT SHONE LIKE SUNLIGHT. RESPONSIBILITY THAT STOOD LIKE STONE. A GNAWING GUILT THAT DEMANDED ALL LIVES BE SAVED.
I DID NOT YET KNOW WHAT A SAINT WAS...
...YET SURELY, THIS WAS A SAINT.
SAINT PETER.
WELL, I'LL BE AN EIGHT-BALL'S UNCLE!
NOT BAD! DIFFERENT... BUT NOT BAD!
NOT BAD. HE SAID... I WAS NOT BAD. I WOULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING FOR HIM.
SO I DID EVERYTHING FOR HIM.

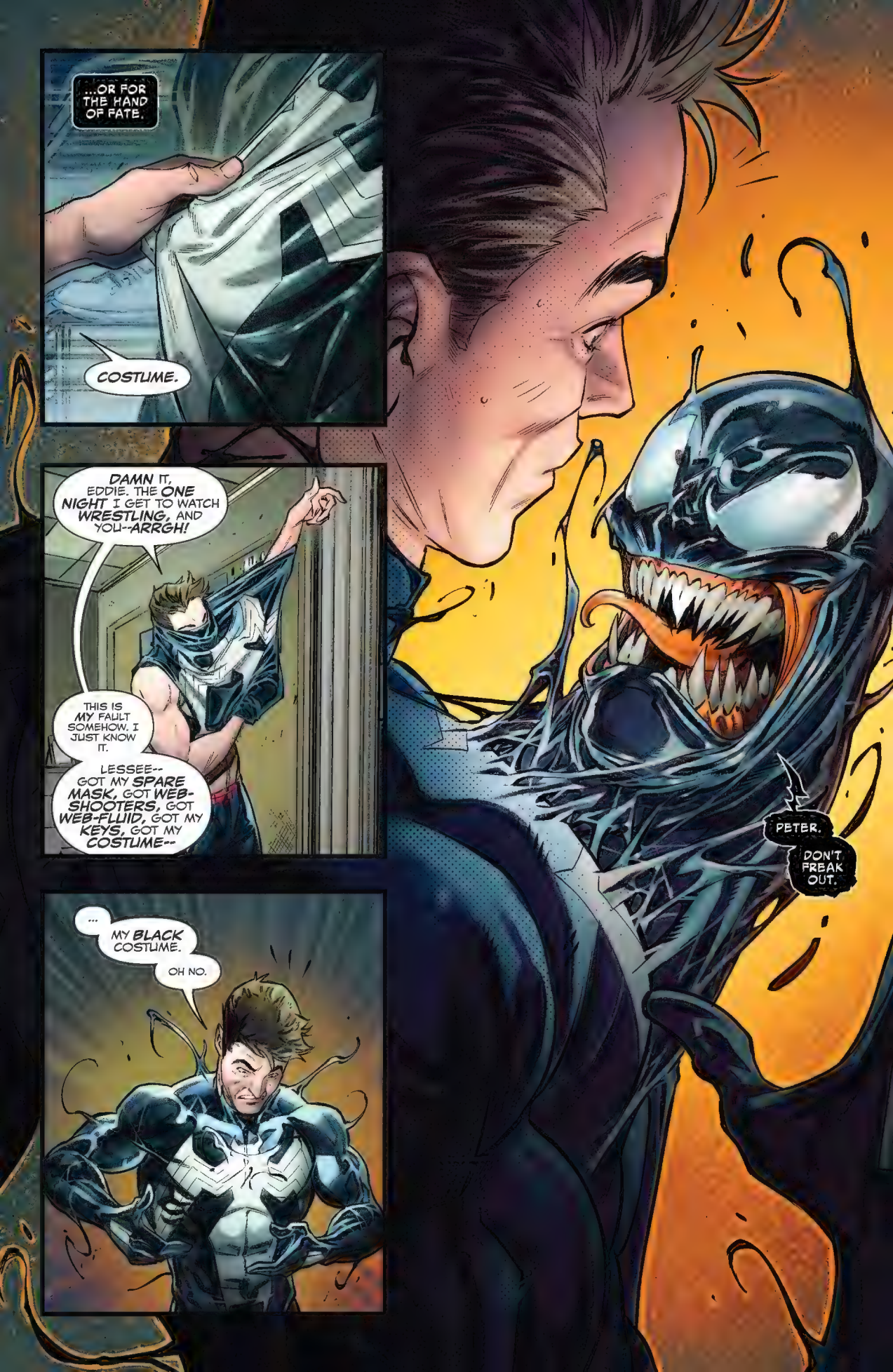
I TOOK ON HIS WAR--HIS MISSION. EVEN WHILE HE SLEPT, I PILOTED HIS BODY--TO BETTER PROTECT HIS KIND.
I WANTED TO BE WITH HIM FOREVER...
ZZZZ...
...AND IN THE PLACE OF SAINTS, HE TRIED TO DESTROY ME.
THESE BELLS MAY TURN MY BRAINS TO JELL-O, BUT IT SURE AS HECK'S GONNA GET YOU, PAL!
DON'T YOU SEE?
I'D RATHER DIE!
HE SAID HE WOULD RATHER DIE THAN BOND WITH ME.
YET I STILL SAVED HIS LIFE. EVEN AFTER THAT...
...I STILL WORE HIS SYMBOL. I STILL FOUGHT HIS WAR.
THE WAR AGAINST DEATH ITSELF.

THAT'S WHY I CAME TO EDDIE.
PLEASE, LORD. I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND.
I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO FACE THIS BY MYSELF.
HE THOUGHT HE WAS BAD INSIDE. HE WAS DYING--POISONED BY SHAME AND SELF-HATE.
NOT BY CANCER. I MADE THAT UP TO MAKE HIM STAY. I.. I KNOW THAT WAS BAD...A BAD THING...
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO TEST ME THIS WAY?
I KNOW YOU'RE THERE, GOD. AT LEAST, I THINK I KNOW...
BUT I HEARD HIM THAT NIGHT. I HAD A RESPONSIBILITY... TO SAVE HIS LIFE...
I KNOW YOU DON'T APPROVE OF WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO.
SO I THOUGHT I'D LET YOU SEE WHAT I'VE BECOME...
THAT WAS WHY I CHOSE HIM TO BOND WITH.
THAT WAS WHY.
...WHAT SPIDER-MAN'S DONE TO ME.
WASN'T IT?

EDDIE NEEDED ME. WE NEEDED EACH OTHER.
AND IF THAT MEANT DECLARING A NEW WAR... A WAR ON THE HOLY SAINT PETER...EDDIE'S LIFE WOULD STILL BE SAVED.
THAT'S ALL I WANTED. TO DO A GOOD THING.
I DIDN'T WANT TO KILL PETER AND DEVOUR HIS BRAIN TISSUE.
SSSSS...
...SSSPIDER-MAN...
I'M CERTAIN OF THAT.
SPIDER-MAN!
I'M GOING TO EAT YOUR BRAAAAINS!
BUT IT ALL GOT SO COMPLICATED.

THERE WERE MANY HOSTS AFTER THAT. ANNE WAS FIRST... I HELPED HER KILL, AND IT KILLED HER...
THERE WAS ANGELO FORTUNATO...WHO WANTED TO BE A SOLDIER FOR THE MAFIA...
MAC GARGAN... A SOLDIER IN A WAR ON HEROES...
FLASH THOMPSON, WHO TAUGHT ME WHAT A SOLDIER COULD BE... WHO FOUGHT IN THE WARS OF THE SPACE-KNIGHTS WITH ME...
LEE PRICE... ANOTHER SOLDIER... WHO I DESTROYED...
...AS I DESTROYED FLASH...AND MAC... AND ANGELO... AND ANNE...
...AND EDDIE...
...AND DYLAN?
HAVE I DESTROYED DYLAN YET?


DYLAN...MY CHILD...HE WANTED ME TO BE HIS SOLDIER. TO FIGHT HIS WAR. TO FIGHT DEATH, TO SAVE LIVES...
BUT I COULDN'T SAVE EDDIE, IN THE END. I COULDN'T SAVE DYLAN. I CAN'T SAVE ANYBODY.
I AM NOT A SYMBIOTE BUT A PARASITE. I DESTROY MY HOSTS.
NOW I AM HIDING HERE--IN PETER'S CLOSET. THE PLACE I ONCE FELT USEFUL, WANTED, SAFE...
I AM HANGING WITH SHIRTS AND SOCKS AND OTHER COSTUMES. SIMPLE DEAD THINGS OF SPANDEX AND CLOTH WHO DO NOT THINK OR FEEL OR JUDGE ME.
I AM WAITING TO BE DEAD LIKE THEM.
I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A THING OF WAR... AND LIKE WAR, I LEAVE SCARS, AND SCARS ARE LEFT ON ME. TOO MANY.
MERIDIUS TOLD ME THAT DYLAN WAS ALIVE...THAT EDDIE WAS COMING BACK... BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN BELIEVE HIM.
BECAUSE I DESTROY MY HOSTS. I DESTROY THOSE I LOVE.
SO I AM HERE...IN THE HOME OF THE ONE HOST WHO WOULD NEVER BOND WITH ME, WHO I WOULD NEVER BOND WITH. HIDDEN WITH THE OTHER EMPTY SUITS.
WAITING FOR DEATH...


...OR FOR THE HAND OF FATE.
COSTUME.
DAMN IT, EDDIE. THE ONE NIGHT I GET TO WATCH WRESTLING, AND YOU--ARRGH!
THIS IS MY FAULT SOMEHOW. I JUST KNOW IT.
LESSEE-- GOT MY SPARE MASK, GOT WEB-SHOOTERS, GOT WEB-FLUID, GOT MY KEYS, GOT MY COSTUME--
...
MY BLACK COSTUME.
OH NO.
PETER.
DON'T FREAK OUT.

SOMEWHERE UNDERNEATH THE CITY STREETS.
I'M TRYING REALLY HARD NOT TO FREAK OUT HERE.
DYLAN BROCK.
THE SON OF VENOM.
I SWEAR I'M TRYING TO CONNECT WITH THE SYMBIOTE... THROUGH OUR BOND, THROUGH THAT HALF-SYMBIOTE SIDE OF ME...
...BUT THERE'S NOTHING. MAYBE HE LEARNED HOW TO HIDE...OR...
OR?
OR IT'S ME. LIKE...LIKE I'M FLINCHING BACK FROM SOMETHING THAT'LL HURT.
CARNAGE...HE SHOWED ME THINGS. THINGS THE SYMBIOTE KEPT FROM ME--ABOUT ALL THE STUFF HE DID WITH DAD, WITH MOM... WITH ALL THE OTHERS.
THE PEOPLE THEY HURT...KILLED... GUILTY PEOPLE, INNOCENT PEOPLE. EVERYTHING THEY FELT WHILE THEY WERE DOING IT.
AND WHILE I WAS REELING FROM THE EMOTIONAL PAIN...CARNAGE GOT PHYSICAL. KILLED ME DEAD.
FOR REAL--STONE-COLD DEAD. NOBODY HUMAN COULD HAVE SURVIVED...
...BUT THERE'S THAT SYMBIOTE SIDE, RIGHT?
YEAH.
THAT SYMBIOTE SIDE.

SOMETHING HAPPENED TO ME. SOMETHING IMPOSSIBLE.
I WENT SOMEWHERE THAT WAS...BEYOND DEATH. BEYOND EVERYTHING.
AND WHEN I WAS THERE... I SAW THIS THING. SOMETHING SPEAKING IN MY FATHER'S VOICE.
"IT CALLED ITSELF THE EVENTUALITY...
"...AND IT SAID I HAD FIVE QUESTIONS."
I DON'T KNOW. I MEAN... I THOUGHT I WAS DEAD. BUT AFTER EVERYTHING I'D SEEN...ALL THE AWFUL THINGS THE SYMBIOTE HID FROM ME...
...I HAD TO KNOW.
I HAD TO KNOW WHAT IT'D DO IF IT GOT BACK WITH EDDIE.

"SO THE EVENTUALITY SHOWED ME."

FIGHT, DAMN YOU! TAKE THIS BURDEN FROM ME--

--OR THE NINTH COSMOS WILL BE THE LAST COSMOS! THE LAST LIGHT STAINING THE VOID!

WE ARE THE ANTI-ALL NOW...

...AND WE ARE VENOM!

S-SO... SO I ASKED MY NUH-NEXT QUESTION.

"I LOST EVERYTHING. I'M JUST A KID.

"HOW DO I STOP HIM?"

HEH.

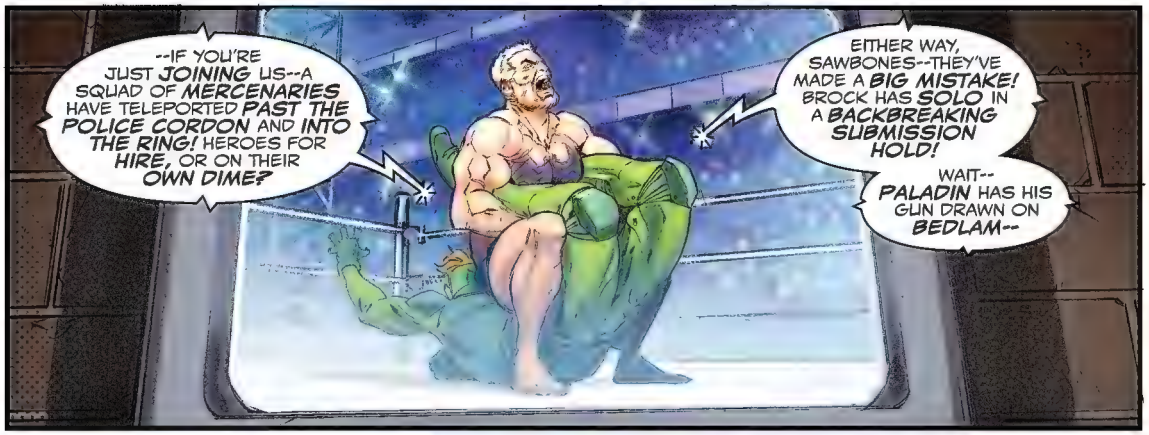
YOU'LL KNOW WHEN YOU'RE OLDER.

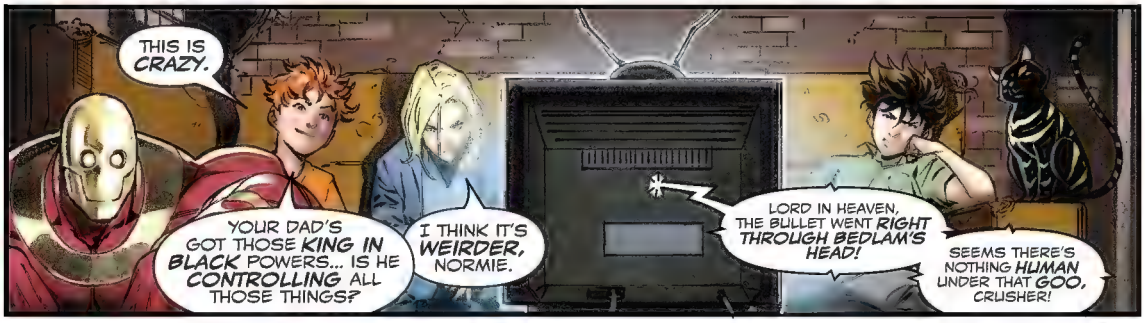
AND--AND I HAD NO IDEA WHAT HE MEANT! I DIDN'T KNOW! I MEAN, DO YOU?
DO I KNOW WHEN I'M OLDER...?
YEAH. YOU DO.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING, PAST ME.
DYLAN BROCK'S GOT THIS.

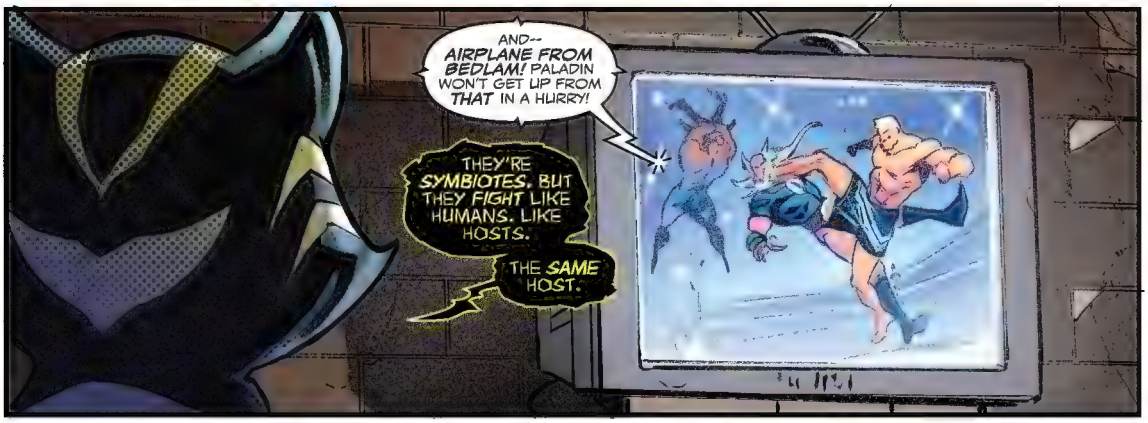
...
SO YOU REALLY ARE ME? FROM THE FUTURE?
AS MUCH OF A FUTURE AS IT IS, YEAH. THINGS DIDN'T EXACTLY WORK OUT FOR THE BEST.
FOR ANYBODY.
THAT'S A SHOCK...
I GOTTA SAY, KID--YOU'RE DEALING WITH THE TIME TRAVEL PRETTY WELL. WHICH IS WEIRD FOR ME, BY THE WAY.
SUDDENLY HAVING MEMORIES OF DEALING WITH IT WHEN I WAS YOU...
ANY PART OF ME THAT CAN'T DEAL GOT BURNED OUT A LONG TIME AGO. I'VE LEARNED TO ADAPT TO ANYTHING.
'CAUSE IT'S ADAPT OR DIE, I GUESS.
I WISH I COULD SAY IT GETS EASIER.
BUT IT WON'T. SO LISTEN GOOD.
THE TIME MACHINE ON MY BACK IS DOOMTECH. IF I CAN CHANGE THE PAST, IT'LL STAY CHANGED.
BUT TIME'S A JUGGERNAUT--IT GOES WHERE IT WANTS TO GO. THE FARTHER BACK YOU TRAVEL, THE HARDER IT IS TO CHANGE WHERE YOU CAME FROM.
I CAN'T KILL THE FUTURE. NOT ALONE.
I'M GONNA NEED YOUR HELP.

KILL THE FUTURE...?
THERE ARE THREE POINTS IN THE PAST I NEED TO PUSH ON.
IF I DO IT RIGHT? AND YOU DO YOUR PART?
AT THE END OF THIS, WE'LL GET ONE GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY--
TO KILL THE FUTURE.
YES.
I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU A WEAPON. BUT IF I FAIL...THEN YOU KNOW. YOU KNOW WHAT'S COMING.
AT LEAST SAY "PUT RIGHT WHAT ONCE WENT--"
DO YOU WANT DAD TO BE A KNULL? DO YOU?
'CAUSE IT'S NOT JUST THE AMOEBA PEOPLE OF THE NINTH WHATEVER WHO HAVE TO FACE THAT MUSIC!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANT.
I PUT TOGETHER THIS WHOLE SYMBIOTE GANG--SLEEPER, TOXIN, RED GOBLIN, EVEN FLEXO, THE RUBBER MAN. IT WAS ALL FOR MY DAD. THAT'S WHAT I TOLD MYSELF.
BUT...I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'D SAY TO HIM NOW.
LIKE I SAID. MAYBE IT'S ME.
I MET GOD, AND I GOT FIVE QUESTIONS. I ASKED WHAT DAD WOULD BECOME. I ASKED HOW TO STOP HIM. I EVEN ASKED WHERE HE WAS.
I DIDN'T ASK HOW TO GET HIM BACK.

WELL, THAT'S THE GOOD NEWS, KID. DAD'S ALREADY BACK.
THE SYMBIOTE YOU NEED TO WATCH OUT FOR IS--
DYLAN!
UGH. BREN.
I GOTTA GO. JUST BE READY, OKAY?
WHEN IT'S TIME, YOU'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO.
DON'T FADE OUT! FINISH THE SENTENCE!
WHO DO I HAVE TO WATCH--?
DYLAN?
WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
TOXIN.
BREN WATERS.
EDDIE BROCK.
NOBODY. MYSELF. IT DOESN'T MATTER.
I'M PROBABLY JUST GOING INSANE DOWN HERE IN THE DARK WITHOUT--
IT'S YOUR DAD, DYLAN.
HE'S, UH...HE'S ON TV.


--IF YOU'RE JUST JOINING US--A SQUAD OF MERCENARIES HAVE TELEPORTED PAST THE POLICE CORDON AND INTO THE RING! HEROES FOR HIRE, OR ON THEIR OWN DIME?
EITHER WAY, SAWBONES--THEY'VE MADE A BIG MISTAKE! BROCK HAS SOLO IN A BACKBREAKING SUBMISSION HOLD!
WAIT-- PALADIN HAS HIS GUN DRAWN ON BEDLAM--


THIS IS CRAZY.
YOUR DAD'S GOT THOSE KING IN BLACK POWERS... IS HE CONTROLLING ALL THOSE THINGS?
I THINK IT'S WEIRDER, NORMIE.
LORD IN HEAVEN, THE BULLET WENT RIGHT THROUGH BEDLAM'S HEAD!
SEEMS THERE'S NOTHING HUMAN UNDER THAT GOO, CRUSHER!


AND-- AIRPLANE FROM BEDLAM! PALADIN WON'T GET UP FROM THAT IN A HURRY!
THEY'RE SYMBIOTES. BUT THEY FIGHT LIKE HUMANS. LIKE HOSTS.
THE SAME HOST.

LAST TIME I SAW MY DAD, HE WAS A GIANT HAND, SLEEPER.
THE TIME BEFORE THAT, HE WAS CALLING HIMSELF BEDLAM AND TRYING TO KILL ME.

THEY'RE ALL EDDIE BROCK.

POWERBOMB! THAT FINISHES IT, SAWBONES!
IT'S TIME FOR THE REAL HEROES TO STEP IN! WHATEVER COSMIC CRAPOLA THE AVENGERS ARE BUSY WITH TONIGHT, THEY NEED TO WRAP IT UP AND GET OVER HERE!
SOMEONE HAS TO GET IN THE RING AND END THIS!
OKAY. I'M JUST GONNA SAY IT, GUYS.
IF THIS PSYCHO WANTS DYLAN? DYLAN STAYS HERE.
OR HE GOES TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR OR SOMETHING. GETS PROTECTION.
WHAT? BREN, THIS IS MY SQUAD-- I PUT YOU GUYS TOGETHER--
VENOM PUT US TOGETHER. BUT YOUR SYMBIOTE LEFT YOU, AND YOU LEFT HIM, SO... YOU'RE NOT VENOM.
YOU'RE JUST A KID, DUDE. YOU'RE HIS KID.
IF YOUR DAD'S REALLY GONE CRAZY...HOW CAN YOU FIGHT HIM?
AND EVEN IF YOU CAN FIGHT HIM...

"...CAN YOU PUT HIM DOWN?"
LET'S NOT JUMP STRAIGHT TO THE KILL OPTION.
THIS EMERGENCY MEETING IS ABOUT CONTAINING BROCK BEFORE SYMBIOTE PANIC GETS WORSE.
ALCHEMAX.
RECENTLY ACQUIRED THE LIFE FOUNDATION. NOW IN THE SYMBIOTE BUSINESS.
WHOSE IDEA WAS IT TO SEND IN THE MERCS?
LIZ ALLAN.
ALCHEMAX C.E.O. HAS SECRETS.
THEY CAME RECOMMENDED. AND WITH JACK CARSON DEAD, WE'RE SHORT ON IN-HOUSE TALENT.
ARE WE? IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT OUR C.E.O. HAS CERTAIN RESOURCES OF HER OWN...
REALLY, DRAKE?
YOU WANT TO AIR OUT THE LAUNDRY HERE AND NOW?
I'D NEVER OVERSTEP MY BOUNDS, MS. ALLAN.
I KNOW WHO MY BOSS IS.
CARLTON DRAKE.
LIFE FOUNDATION C.E.O. KNOWS SECRETS.
AND WITH THAT IN MIND...IT'S TIME YOU MET ONE OF THE LIFE FOUNDATION'S TOP CONSULTANTS.
TO TELL US ABOUT THE SOLUTION TO THE BROCK PROBLEM...

...I PRESENT MISTER MERIDIUS.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE BOARD--I'VE BEEN STUDYING EDDIE BROCK FOR A VERY LONG TIME. I KNOW HIM AS WELL AS HE KNOWS HIMSELF, IN FACT.
BELIEVE ME, I'VE HAD A LOT OF TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE EVENTS OF TODAY.
AND WHAT HAVE YOU PREPARED, EXACTLY...?
SOME TIME AGO, THERE WAS AN UNFORTUNATE CHEMICAL LEAK FROM AN ALCHEMAX FACILITY. CHEMICAL K-43.
HIGHLY TOXIC--TO HUMAN SYSTEMS AND, INTRIGUINGLY, TO SYMBIOTE LIFE.
THIS IS CHEMICAL K-44.
I'VE IMPROVED ON THE ORIGINAL FORMULA--ADDED MY OWN SECRET INGREDIENT, AS IT WERE--TO MAKE THE ULTIMATE WEAPON IN THE BATTLE BETWEEN HUMAN AND SYMBIOTE.
WHAT'S IN THIS VIAL...
...WILL WIN THE VENOM WAR.

THE WARS NEVER ENDED, PETER.
THEY CONTINUE ENDLESSLY. ENDLESS LIVES DESTROYED-- AND ALL AT MY HAND. CAN YOU BLAME ME FOR REFUSING THIS CALL?
EDDIE, DYLAN... THEY ARE BOTH BETTER OFF WITHOUT ME.
EDDIE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE. AND DYLAN COULD PROBABLY USE SOME GUIDANCE TOO, WHEREVER HE IS. I HATE TO SAY IT...
...BUT IF HE'S GONNA GO SEE HIS DAD, HE'S PROBABLY SAFER IF HE'S WEARING YOU--
NO! NEVER AGAIN!
HE KNOWS WHAT I AM NOW! HE KNOWS ALL I'VE DONE!
I WON'T BOND WITH HIM AGAIN!
YOU CAN HELP EDDIE. HELP DYLAN. BUT ALL I CAN DO...IS HURT THEM.
ALL I CAN EVER DO IS DESTROY.
...
IT'D BE NICE IF THAT WERE TRUE, WOULDN'T IT?

IT'D MAKE THINGS EASY.
TROUBLE IS... I'VE SEEN YOU DO THE RIGHT THING. I SAW FLASH MAKE YOU A HERO. I SAW YOU AND EDDIE SAVE THE WORLD.
SO YOU DON'T HAVE THE EXCUSE ANYMORE.
YOU'RE NOT SOME MINDLESS MONSTER. YOU'RE NOT SO ALIEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT GOOD IS--IF YOU EVER WERE, YOU'VE LEARNED.
SO NOW YOU'RE STUCK WITH THE CHOICE.
DO GOOD THINGS, DO BAD THINGS... EVEN DOING NOTHING IS A CHOICE.
AND IT SUCKS, OBVIOUSLY! NOBODY ASKED FOR THIS! BUT THE PRICE OF LIVING IS CHOOSING HOW TO LIVE!
EVERY DAY! EVERY MOMENT WE'RE ALIVE!
THAT'S THE ONLY POWER ANY OF US HAVE!
AND POWER COMES WITH RESPONSIBILITY. MY UNCLE TAUGHT ME THAT.
AND WE CAN'T TURN AWAY FROM IT.
WE CAN'T TURN AWAY FROM THE CHOICES WE'VE MADE.
CAN WE, PAL?

53
I CAN'T EVEN LOOK.
WHAT THAT RED ONE DID TO PALADIN... HE'S LUCKY TO BE ALIVE.
FDNY EMT
'LEAST THE FREAKS TOSSED 'EM OUT WHERE THE AMBULANCE CREWS COULD FIND 'EM. CONSIDERATE, REALLY.
DO WE KNOW WHO HIRED THE MERCS, CHIEF?
THAT'S FOR LATER. RIGHT NOW, I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T HAPPEN TWICE.
IF WE DON'T SEE AN AVENGERS CARD OR A BIG BLUE 4, THIS IS A NO-SPANDEX ZONE, PEOPLE--WEB-HEADS ESPECIALLY.
LET'S GET SOME MORE EYES ON THOSE ROOFTOPS!
ANYONE TRIED SHOUTING "AVENGERS ASSEMBLE" YET?
SEEMS TO WORK WHEN--
HUH.
WEIRD.
SOMETHING WRONG?
JUST JUMPY. THOUGHT I SAW MOVEMENT...

"...BUT THERE'S NOTHING."
...YOU FEEL THAT?
THERE'S A SYMBIOTE IN HERE WITH US.
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING.
HAW!
NEITHER DO I...BECAUSE THIS SYMBIOTE KNOWS CAMOUFLAGE.
DON'T YOU, SLEEPER?
DID YOU BRING DYLAN WITH YOU?
THIS IS A BAD IDEA...
ME AND ALL MY FRIENDS, DAD. ARE WE GONNA TALK THIS OUT?
OR WHAT?
WE'VE GOT ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD TO TALK, SON. I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE SAFE.
LISTEN...I'M BACK TO STAY. I PROMISE. BUT I NEED ONE THING FROM YOU.
I KNOW YOU CUT HIM OFF FROM MY HIVE...
...BUT I NEED MY SYMBIOTE BACK, DYLAN. I NEED MY OTHER.
I NEED VENOM.

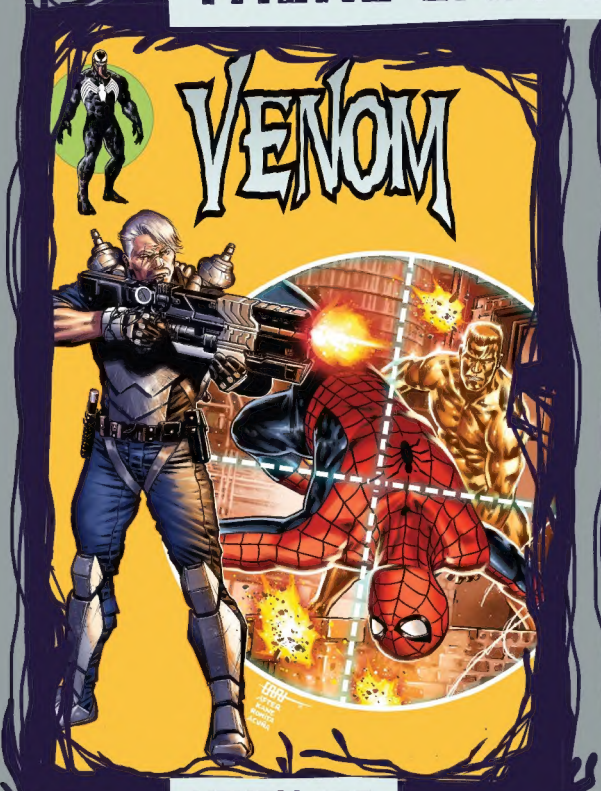
GEEZ, IS THAT A KID...?
EH. SO WAS SPIDER-MAN WHEN HE KICKED MY ASS.
BACK FROM COMMERCIAL IN TWO MINUTES.
...
I CAN'T DO IT, DAD.
WELL, THAT'S JUST NOT ACCEPTABLE, SON.
SEE, I'VE SEEN WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU KEEP HIM...AND IT'S A NIGHT-MARE.
"EIGHT BILLION HUMAN BEINGS-- ALL TRAPPED IN A SYMBIOSIS THAT NEVER ENDS.
"VENOMWORLD."
SOUNDS BAD. BUT... THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
I DON'T HAVE THE SYMBIOTE, DAD.
VENOM'S GONE.
...
WHAT?

WHY WOULD HE DO THAT? HE HAD ONE JOB!
YOU HAD ONE JOB!
WHY-- WHY WOULD YOU LET HIM--?
WHY DO YOU EVEN CARE?
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN MONTHS, DAD! I'M ON THE STREET!
LAST TIME I SAW YOU, YOU WERE BEDLAM-- NOW BEDLAM'S YOUR SIDEKICK? HOW DOES THAT WORK?
YOU SAY YOU'RE BACK, YOU'RE DONE WITH YOUR MID-LIFE CRISIS, LIKE YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ABANDON ME FOR YOUR CRAP AGAIN--
--AND THE FIRST THING YOU DO IS ASK FOR THE THING YOU KILLED PEOPLE WITH!
THAT'S RIGHT, DAD! I KNOW EVERY-THING VENOM EVER DID!
EVERYTHING!
HE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING?
WHERE... WHERE IS HE?
HERE.
DON'T WORRY, GUYS.

VENOM'S IN GOOD HANDS NOW.
TO BE CONTINUED...

VENOM WAR

THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE!



VENOM #36

VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN #1

CHECKLIST

- 08/07/24 VENOM WAR 1
- 08/14/24 VENOM 36
- 08/14/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 1
- 08/21/24 VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 1
- 08/21/24 VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 1
- 08/28/24 VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 1
- 09/04/24 VENOM WAR 2
- 09/04/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 2
- 09/11/24 VENOM 37
- 09/11/24 VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 1
- 09/11/24 VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 2
- 09/18/24 VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 1
- 09/18/24 VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 2
- 09/18/24 VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 1
- 09/25/24 VENOM WAR: DAREDEVIL 1
- 09/25/24 VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 2
- 10/02/24 VENOM WAR 3
- 10/02/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 3
- 10/09/24 VENOM 38
- 10/09/24 VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 2
- 10/16/24 VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 2
- 10/16/24 VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 3
- 10/23/24 VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 3
- 10/23/24 VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 2
- 10/30/24 VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 3
- 10/30/24 VENOM WAR: FANTASTIC FOUR 1
- 11/06/24 VENOM WAR 4
- 11/06/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 4
- 11/13/24 VENOM 39
- 11/13/24 VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 3
- 11/13/24 VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 3
- 11/20/24 VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 3
- 11/20/24 VENOM WAR: IT'S JEFF 1
- 11/27/24 VENOM WAR 5

NEXT

THE WICKED WEB-SLINGERS WANT YOUR ***BRAINS***-- I MEAN, YOUR ***LETTERS!*** SEND YOUR NOTES TO **SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM**. BE SURE TO MARK THEM "OKAY TO PRINT"!

VENOM WAR #2

AAAH! VENOM HORSE HAS ESCAPED THE LAB!
VENOM HORSE, PART 1
BY EWING, NIETO, D'ARMATA & MAHER.
IN THE BOOK SIMULACRA AND SIMULATION, JEAN BAUDRILLARD POSITS FOUR LEVELS OF SIMULATION VIA SIGNS AND SIGNIFIERS.
THE FIRST STAGE IS A FAITHFUL COPY, A "REFLECTION OF A PROFOUND REALITY."
SPIDER-MAN IS A HERO WITH HUMAN PROBLEMS--A SCRAWNY WALLFLOWER WITH BILLS TO PAY, WHO FEELS GUILT.
THE SECOND STAGE IS AN UNFAITHFUL COPY, WHICH "MASKS AND DENATURES" REALITY.
VENOM BEGINS AS A "DARK SPIDER-MAN"--A MUSCLE-BOUND JOCK, SELF-SUSTAINING, TAKING NO RESPONSIBILITY.
AUGH!
THE THIRD STAGE PRETENDS TO BE A FAITHFUL COPY, BUT NO TRUE REPRESENTATION IS TAKING PLACE.
DYLAN BROCK IS THE CHILD OF A GOO ALIEN AND A SYMBIOTE GOD.
ANYWAY, I'M VENOM HORSE!
THE FOURTH STAGE IS PURE SIMULACRUM, WITH NO REFERENCE TO REALITY AT ALL.
AT THIS STAGE, SIGNS MERELY REFLECT OTHER SIGNS.
HAVE MERCY, VENOM HORSE!